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COMMISSION ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE March 1, 1988

Hon. Michael H. Armacost
Under Secretary for Political Affairs
Room 7240
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

RUB

DATE 3/2/88

Need a quick
recommendation
St. Eustace

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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We hereby invite you to testify before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission) on March 23, 1988 at 10:00 a.m. in Room B318 of the Rayburn House Office Building to discuss American policy regarding Soviet Army defectors and prisoners of war held in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Commission will specifically focus on the initiative proposed in H. Con. Res. 169 of the 100th Congress, which calls for the United States to establish a means of bringing these soldiers out of captivity and to the United States. As you may be aware, this issue was raised during Commission hearings held in December 1985 examining Soviet violations of the Helsinki Accords in Afghanistan. In addition, the Commission plans to address the issue of the status of these soldiers after the signing of the proposed agreement between the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Invitations to testify have also been extended to Senator Gordon Humphrey, Lyudmila Ithorne of Freedom House, and two former Soviet soldiers who served in Afghanistan and are now residing in Canada.

In the event that you are able to testify, the Commission would like an advance copy of your written statement at least three days before the hearing so that it may be reproduced and distributed to the press. This written statement will be published in the printed record of the hearing. In addition, you will be provided an opportunity to present an opening statement of about five minutes duration. This will allow time for members of the Commission to address questions to you.

The Commission and looks forward to hearing your testimony on the above-mentioned subjects, as well as any comments you may have concerning your recent talks in Pakistan. Should you need any further information, please have your staff contact the Fifty of the Commission staff at (202) 225-1901.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis DeConcini
DENNIS DECONCINI
Co-Chairman